

Students Heckle Lodge At Oxford's Teach-in

OXFORD, England, June 16—Former Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge tried vainly tonight to convince a hostile student audience here that America's policy in Viet-Nam "points the way to freedom, prosperity and equality."

Lodge, who served both President Kennedy and Johnson as envoy in Saigon, flew in from Boston today expressly to defend the American position at an Oxford "teach-in."

His appearance followed a week of controversy over the American Government's reluctance to send any spokesman to earlier teach-ins at Cambridge and the University of London.

Lodge got applause for his sportsmanship and won sympathy in fending off shrill hecklers. But judging by uniformly adverse questions and audience response, he made few converts.

In fact, the onetime Senator unwittingly helped cut the ground from under British Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart, who followed him in the day-long teach-in.

Skeptical Audience

Stewart faced a stomping, skeptical audience of about a thousand, jammed into the Oxford Union Hall, with unflinching poise and good temper. A former president of the Oxford Union himself, Stewart shrugged off frequent cries of "shame" and "disgraceful."

The Foreign Secretary's major point was that whatever the dispute over past history, it is the Communist powers today who bar the way to negotiations.

But Lodge had already said, "I don't think this is the time

to negotiate. I don't think Churchill would have negotiated at the time of Dunkirk."

Asked about Lodge's statement, Stewart replied that he did not hear the former Ambassador's speech and was sure that, in full context, negotiations were not ruled out.

Other points in constant contention were the wisdom of continued bombing raids on North Viet-Nam and U.S. refusal to negotiate with the Viet Cong.

Stewart maintained that American reprisals were justified by North Vietnamese escalation of the war in general and by recent attacks on U.S. ships and bases in particular.

Stresses Need of Talks

But in response to a question, Stewart emphasized that British support for American policy was based on the present level of the war. His stress throughout was on the need for reconvening the countries represented at the Geneva Conference in 1954 to discuss peace in Viet-Nam.

Except by those favoring unconditional surrender to the Communists, he said, "I don't think it can be said we have been backward or laggard in trying to get a humane solution to the problem."

More than 20 speakers participated in the teach-in, which was sponsored by a roster of Oxford's biggest names, including Profs. Sir Isaiah Berlin and Max Beloff. The audience was lively and there were frequent bursts of applause for statements opposed to the prevailing student views. An Ox-

ford don was overheard to say, "It is a pity that a British Foreign Secretary had to make an adequate defense of American Policy. They should have sent someone like Walter Reuther or Adlai Stevenson—Lodge was too heavy and too righteous for this audience."

"It was an aidea that must have looked good in Washington, but not here."